**Task force for women scientists**

504. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Task Force has been set up to formulate a new scheme for women scientists;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the scheme would be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Task Force for Women in Science has been constituted on December 26, 2005. Tenure of the Task Force will be 3 years from the date of its constitution. The Terms of Reference of the Task Force are as follows—

(i) To formulate guidelines to protect interests of women practitioners in science.

(ii) To recommend appropriate measures to promote and encourage women to take up scientific and technological professions.

(iii) To formulate a time bound plan of action for these measures.

(iv) To ensure that appropriate measures are taken up by the Government and other organizations for promoting women scientists.

(v) To suggest measures to motivate girls to take up S&T for higher education and develop a scientific temper and awareness.

(vi) To interact with other scientific departments/organizations on implementation of gender enabling measures.

(vii) To consider and recommend other proactive gender enabling measures to bring about a greater involvement of women in science and technology.

(viii) To assess and review the impact of above mentioned gender initiatives of the Ministry.

(ix) To make suitable recommendations to the Government of India.

The issue of implementation will arise after the Task Force given its recommendations.